

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-07 IO-06 EUR-08 PM-03
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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7077

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MDJAMENA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIOROTY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 01813

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PEPR MASS IR CD LY

SUBJ: IRANIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD: SO FAR JUST

TEA AND SYMPATHY

REF A. TEHRAN 1765, B. TEHRAN 1801

1. FOLLOWING TALK WITH CHADIAN DELEGATION HEAD FEBRUARY 20
(REFTEL) POLCOUNS DISCUSSED ISSUE WITH MFA, AFRICA DEPART-
MENT HEAD FEBRUARY 21. AFTER SOME PRODDING, DEPT HEAD
UNBURDENED HIMSELF OF WHOLE SERIES OF PROBLEMS GOI SEES
IN GIVING AID TO CHAD, QUITE APART FROM PUZZLEMENT AS
TO WHETHER OR NOT A CREASFIRE IS IN THE OFFING (COMMENT:
WHICH HAS SERVED AS USEFUL PRETEXT TO POSTPONE AN ANSWER
TO CHADIANS). DIFFICULTIES IN GOI'S VIEW CAN BE
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SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

(A) CHAD IS FAR AWAY AND NOT OF SPECIFIC INTEREST TO
IRAN.

(B) ACCESS IS DIFFICULT AND MATERIAL SUCH AS CARS
AND TRUCKS WILL BE VERY EXPENSIVE TO AIRLIFT (SEE
REF A).

(C) NUMAIRY'S REPORTED RAPPROCHEMENT WITH QADHAFI

BRISES TROUBLING PROBLEMS ABOUT SUDAN'S ATTITUDE TOWARD CHAD (INCLUDING OVERFLIGHT OF IRANIAN AID) AS IT DOES IN REGARD TO HORN OF AFRICA.

(D) ALL THINGS CONSIDERED (COMMENT: AND IN VIEW OF CONTINUING KENYAN ACCUSATIONS THAT IRAN IS MEDDLING IN AFRICA'S AFFAIRS) IT WOULD BE BEST THAT ASSISTANCE BE PROVIDED BY ANOTHER AFRICAN COUNTRY. IF THIS PRESENTS PROBLEMS TO COUNTRY SUCH AS MOROCCO, PRESUMABLY USG COULD REPLACE ITEMS IN SHORT ORDER.

(E) CHADIANS SAY REBELS COULD BE HANDLED BY CHAD'S PRESENT MILITARY CAPABILITY IF THEY WERE NOT ASSISTED BY THE LIBYANS; YET ANY REALISTIC AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE IRAN OR OTHERS COULD PROVIDE CHAD WILL NOT BE ENOUGH IF LIBYANS REMAIN COMMITTED TO ASSISTING THE REBELS.

2. FOR ALL ABOVE REASONS IRANIANS BELIEVE BEST COURSE WILL BE NEGOTIATED POLITICAL SOLUTION. NEVERTHELESS, DEPT HEAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT GOI WISHES TO CONCERT ON THIS ISSUE WITH ITS FRIENDS, ESPECIALLY USG, AND THOUGHT AN APPROACH TO US WOULD BE COMING IN NEAR FUTURE.

3. COMMENT: GIVEN WEIGHT AND VARIETY OF REASONS GOI SEES AGAINST ASSISTING CHAD, SEEMS CLEAR THAT CHANCES OF IRAN COMING THROUGH REMAIN DIM, AS WE HAVE REPORTED REPEATEDLY OVER PAST SEVERAL MONTHS.
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